Vol 5 The War Illustrated No 120

Edited by Sir John Hammerton

FOURPENCE FEB. 10TH. 1942

AMERICA'S VANGUARD COMES TO BRITAIN. This radioed photograph shows United States infantrymen, of what is officially styled "The United States Army Forces in the British Isles," marching through the streets of a port in Northern Ireland after their disembarkation on Jan. 26. To the music of the "Star-Spangled Banner" they came down the gangways, and they reciprocated their welcome with "There'll Always Be An England." Officially welcomed by the Duke of Abercorn, Governor-General of Northern Ireland, Major-General Hartle, the American G.O.C., smilingly replied, "We are very glad to be here. I assure you." *Photo, Keystone*

WHAT THE WAR HAS TAUGHT US ABOUT JAPAN

THE old joke about the British War Office "always preparing for the last war" was a wisecrack, with a core of reality to it. But it would not be fair to blame only the War Office for our unreadiness to keep our military methods up to date. It is a failing which affects large numbers of Britons, many of them holding important responsible posts—but not showing very much sense of responsibility.

How often we have to learn vital facts about enemies after they have begun war against us! We are not, it is true, alone in this. It would be impossible to imagine a ruder and more unpleasant awakening than the American people had when the Japanese, whom they had despised, ridiculed, spoken of with contempt as monkeys, sank two of their battleships the moment war started, and within a few weeks made America's position in the Philippines almost untenable.

WHENCE this refusal to face realities? The plain truth is that both the Americans and we ourselves were misled by those who ought to have studied the realities and to have kept us better informed—that is to say, the diplomats and also some of the Press correspondents in Japan. For example, I see in the "Daily Mail" an article telling us how dearly we must pay for not knowing what harm the Japanese could do us as one of the Axis Powers. That article is by Mr. Ward Price, who, for years, was engaged in cracking up Hitler and Mussolini and the Japanese!

But while many have failed us in recent years, it is not at all fantastic to ask how much two gentlemen named W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan contributed half a century ago to make us, and a good many Americans, too, think lightly and condescendingly of the Japanese. Very large numbers of people must have got their ideas of Japan from "The Mikado," must have found it difficult to take seriously a country they had seen represented in a comic light. Silly? Yes, but the great majority are unfortunately prone to be silly in just that way.

DID we not underrate the Boers when the South African War began in 1899, because we had seen them pictured in cartoons as peasants with bushy beards and long, curly pipes, in clothes looking the very reverse of military smartness? Did not the French fancy they could safely take on the Germans in 1870 for the reason very largely that they had been taught to think of them as dreamy, scholarly, unpractical folk? And were not the Germans equally disillusioned in 1914 when they imagined our men to be the "flannelled fools at the wicket and muddied oafs at the goal," of whom Kipling wrote in a bad temper, never having been any good at games himself and disliking everybody who was?

Public opinion is such a curious mixture, made up of very few facts, a great deal of ignorance and prejudice, lies deliberately invented, jokes tossed about. We did not feel contempt for the Japs, as Americans did. They had been our allies for a long time. We had sympathized with them in their war against the Tsardom and fought with them against Imperial Germany. But we did not, when the alliance came to an end, learn to look on them as possible, even probable, enemies in the Far East, where our interests clashed with theirs at so many points.

WE were told up to the time of their sudden, treacherous attack (treacherous, because their envoys were actually engaged in negotiations at Washington when their air force began bombing) that there was not much likelihood of their making war—at any rate not just then! We were assured that they lacked necessary war materials. We were given to understand that their aircraft were flimsily built and their pilots unreliable. What a lot we have had to learn painfully since then!

The first lesson, and the most valuable if we take it in the right spirit, is that they had decided long before on the kind of warfare they meant to go in for, and had prepared for it with meticulous care. Let us select a few examples of this.

They got Germans to instruct them in dive-bombing, and they practised on the Chinese.

They realized the importance of what Napoleon called "having one man more than the enemy has," and resolved to throw in their strength without considering losses. Our reports continually say: "We were heavily outnumbered." They have copied in Malaya the methods of China's guerilla bands which try to get behind the force they are attacking and never make frontal assaults.

Another saying of Napoleon's (or was this one Wellington's?) they have acted upon with thoroughness and cunning—about "the importance of knowing what is going on behind the hill over there."

THEY were practising Fifth Column tactics long before Hitler, long before the Spanish Civil War which gave rise to the expression (one of the generals on Franco's side said he had four columns converging on Madrid and a fifth inside the city, meaning, of course, sympathizers with the rebellion). Now we know why the Japanese who settled in such large numbers in the countries their Government coveted were mostly photographers, barbers, dentists, gardeners and indoor servants.

No surprise or alarm was felt when a professional cameraman was seen taking pictures. No thought of hostile ears being open damped down gossip in barbers' shops. Dentists could mix on friendly terms with prominent persons in a community. Valets and cooks could pick up odds and ends of information. Over the cultivation of flowers or vegetables employers often become confidential with their outdoor employees. As long as thirty-five years ago British Columbians wondered why Japanese came over to Vancouver in such regular streams and seemed most of them to have plenty of money. Californians asked the same question. Now they know the answer.

THAT same genius for working underground was displayed in the secrecy which shrouded their preparations for war. A former British Ambassador in Tokyo has made the naive confession that "while we know Japan has been building hard for the last five years in her naval dockyards, that is all we do know, and she may now be in possession of two or three forty-thousand-ton battleships." The same lack of information was admitted about Japanese building of aircraft. They were said to aim at 30,000 a year and to be able to produce no more than 10,000; but no one really knew. It may well be asked, What do our Embassies do with the Secret Service funds with which they are liberally provided at the expense of British taxpayers?

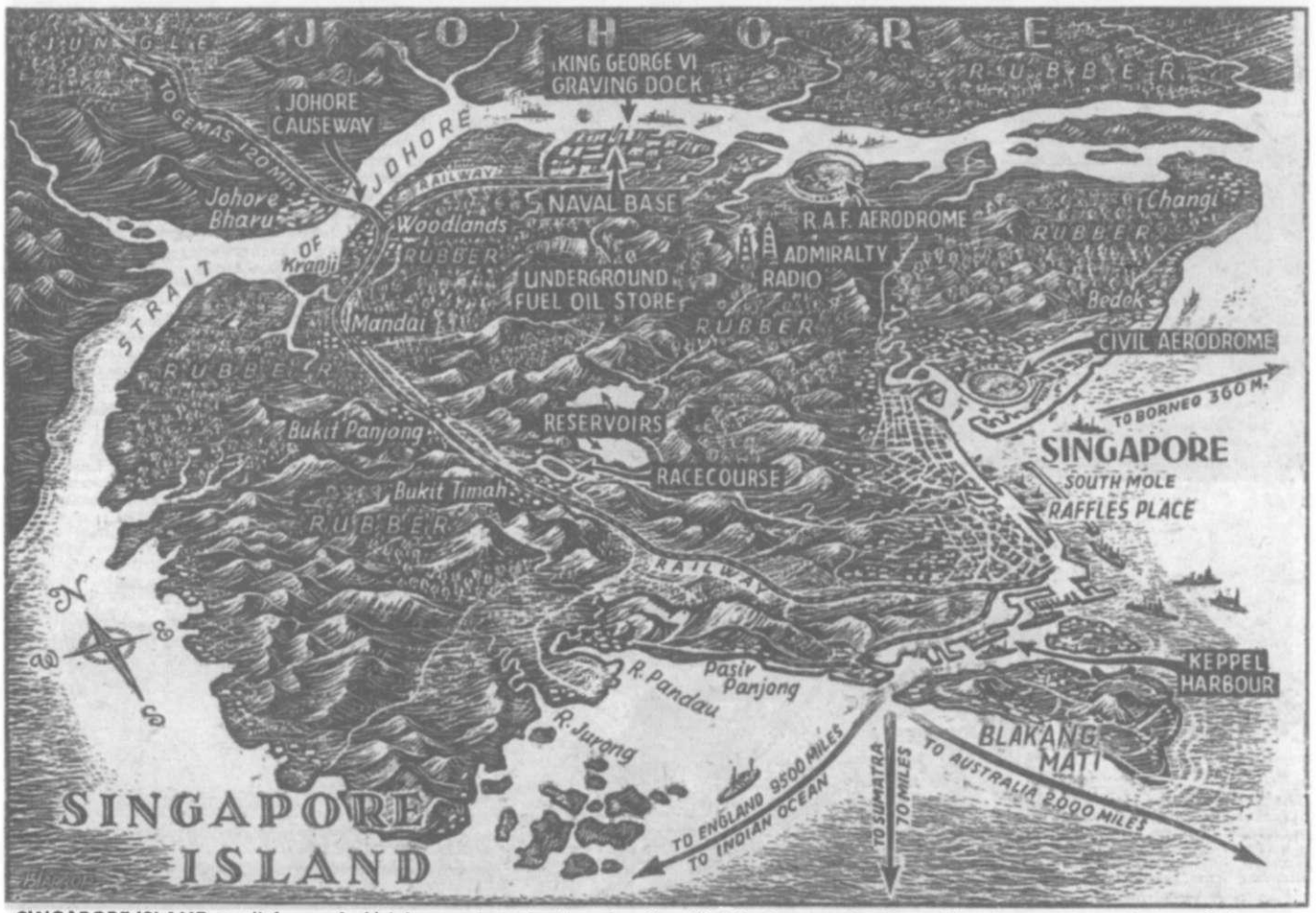
We might inquire also why the correspondent of "The Times" at Singapore should say: "The Japanese are employing novel tactics in fighting quite unlike any that has taken place during the last five years in Europe, Asia or Africa." In this sounds the familiar note of astonishment that anyone should do anything new! The Japanese are superior to us in jungle warfare. They have developed the German method of infiltration. To make a way through the thick bush in any sort of formation is out of the question. Therefore they tell off small groups, even single men, to aim at reaching a point some miles ahead. They climb trees for concealment, and for sniping. They lie in water-logged paddy fields, where they may be submerged for hours at a time.

JAPANESE TANK passing over an emergency bridge during army manoeuvres. The Japanese invading armies have managed to land tanks in considerable numbers both in Malaya and Luzon. *Photo, Associated Press*

SO, to sum up, the chief lessons we have to learn from the war with Japan up to the present are (1) never to underestimate those who may become our enemies; (2) always to look ahead and prepare for the warfare that is coming rather than that which is past; (3) to insist that our diplomats, secret service agents, and colonial officials shall be men of quick mind and close observation, who will give us warning of dangers before and not after they occur.

H. HAMILTON FYFE

Today It Is Bombs on Singapore : Tomorrow ?



SINGAPORE ISLAND, a relief map of which is seen above, has been heavily raided by Japanese bombers. The photographs at the top of the page show Tamil workmen clearing up raid debris after bombs had fallen in the residential and business quarter of the town of Singapore.

Photo, British Newsreel. Diagram specially drawn for THE WAR ILLUSTRATED *by Harrop*

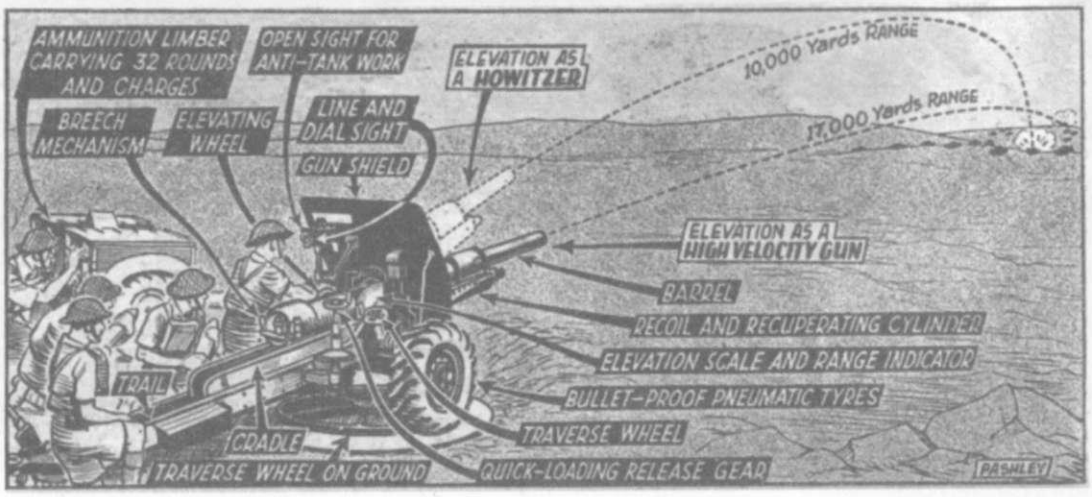
The Gun that Knocks Out the German Tanks

THE Royal Regiment of Artillery is equipped with one of the best guns in the world—the 25-pounder "gunhow," which combines the functions of a howitzer and a high-velocity field gun. Its pedigree is derived from its predecessors, the 4·5 howitzer and the 18-pounder field gun, which were the standard field pieces prior to the last World War.

The range of the British 25-pounder is said to be far greater than that of its German equivalent, and whereas the latter has a traverse of only 60 degrees, the British gun, by means of the traverse wheel which constitutes its ground platform, can sweep through a complete circle.

It has proved its great value in the Libyan campaign, where again and again it has turned the tide. Used as a high-velocity gun it created havoc among the German tanks, achieving the same results as the Russian anti-tank planes (see page 474). In some cases a single shell passed through two German tanks and even then did further damage beyond. 25-pounder field regiments are now completely mechanized, and as our forces expand and production increases this British "gunhow" is likely to have considerable influence on the course of future campaigns.

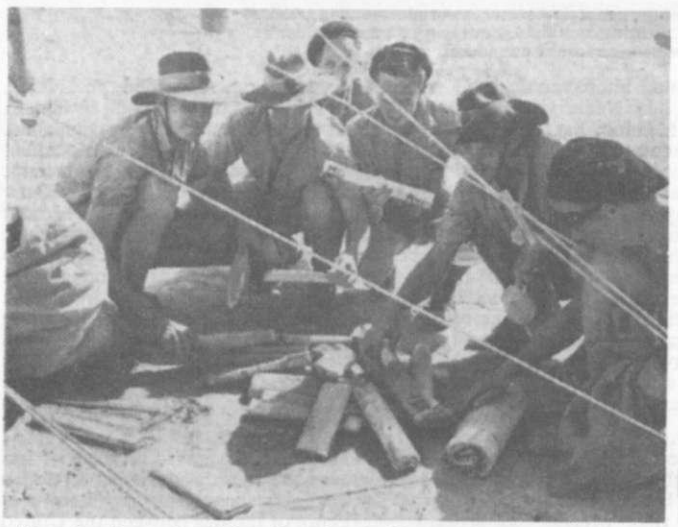
Bottom left is the badge of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, with its mottoes meaning "Everywhere" and "Where Duty and Glory Lead."

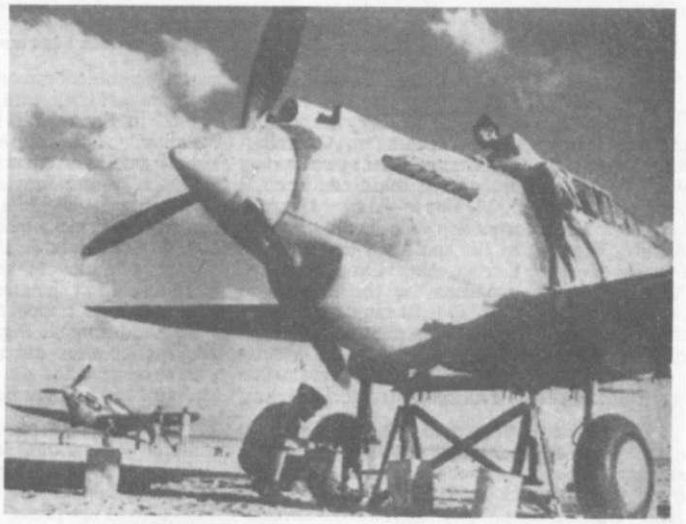


The British 25-pounder gun is featured in this page. Top, a close-up; centre, an action photograph taken near Tobruk; right, diagram indicating the gun's salient features.

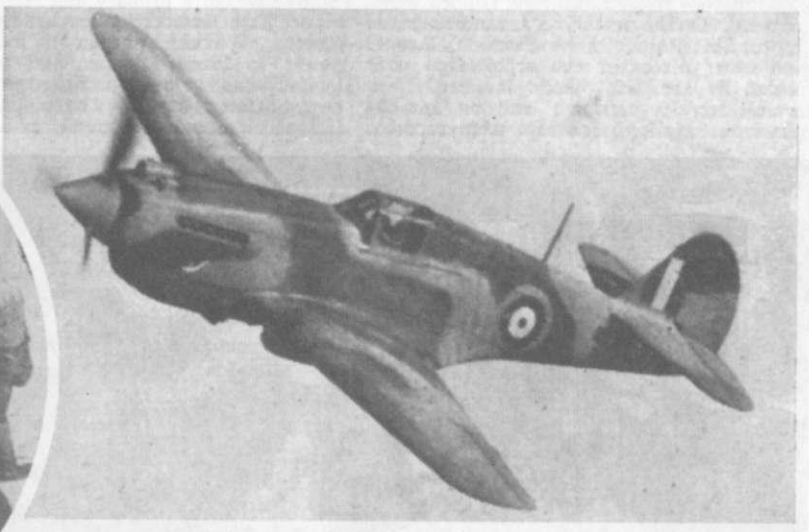
Photos, British Official

Australia's Record Score in the Libyan 'Test'





Men of an Australian Fighter Squadron in Libya sorting out mail from home (above). Right, Tomahawks of the R.A.A.F. in the Western Desert.



A member of the R.A.A.F. gets his breakfast in the desert, circle. An American-built Tomahawk of the R.A.A.F. in flight over Cyrenaica, centre right.

Members of the R.A.A.F. now flying Blenheim bombers in the Libyan battle are perched on top of one of their aircraft which bears as its emblem a kangaroo speeding forward with a bomb. The R.A.A.F. in the Middle East has a record of having brought down 18 enemy planes for every one of its own that has been lost.

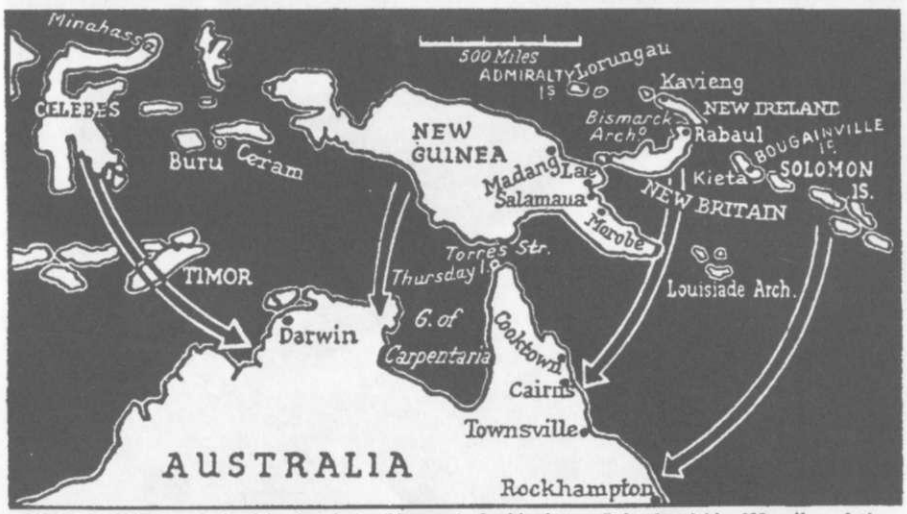
Photos, British and Australian Official

Australia Meets the Threat of Invasion

Until the entry of Japan into the struggle, Australia seemed to be far removed from the war's main battlefields. Now, however, following Japan's attacks on the islands lying off the continent's northern coast, she finds herself in the front line indeed.

"For the first time in history Australian territory has been attacked; for the first time in history a foreign invader is trying to get a footing on Australian territorial soil. The enemy's next stroke may well be an attempt on the mainland itself." So declared Mr. J. M. Forde—Army Minister in the Commonwealth Government and Acting Premier in the temporary absence at Perth of Mr. Curtin, the Labour Prime Minister—in a broadcast to the Australian people on Jan. 23, following the news that Japanese troops had effected landings in New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago, territories mandated to Australia by the League of Nations after the last war.

The invaders first made their appearance early in the morning of Jan. 21, when strong forces of Japanese aircraft appeared over the Bismarck Archipelago and northern New Guinea. Shortly afterwards several towns in New Ireland and New Guinea were bombed. On the next day a Japanese armada approached Rabaul in New Britain. Rabaul and other places in the archipelago were raided by Japanese planes, launched from several aircraft carriers; and on Jan. 24 numerous Japanese landings were reported



NEW GUINEA and the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago. Rabaul, within 800 miles of the Australian mainland, was attacked by the Japanese on Jan. 22, and very heavy air attacks were made over the entire archipelago. The arrows show direction of Japanese threats to Australia. The Torres Strait is only 100 miles wide. *Courtesy of the "Daily Mirror"*

to be taking place in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands. Following the issue of the communiqué giving this news, Mr. Forde declared that: "Australian militia forces are probably in action against Japanese troops trying to gain a foothold on our shores. There can be no doubt that we will hear the roar of cannon along the coast of this country, and that the Japanese plan to attack Australian towns." A similar warning was uttered by Mr. Curtin, the Prime Minister, in a nation-wide broadcast. The country must be prepared, he said, for the shelling and raiding from the air of her cities. Japan had "mountains of supplies and equipment" and so was able to take the offensive everywhere. Nor could he hold out any hope that the Allies had reached the end of their reverses. Australia must just stick it until the Allies had won the Battle of Production.

In this hour of supreme and altogether unexpected crisis many voices were raised in Australia in criticism of the policy of the Allies. On every hand the view was expressed that the war leaders in London and Washington regarded the struggle in the south-west Pacific as a side-show—something which could be settled or would almost settle itself as soon as Hitler and his Nazis had been routed in Europe, the Middle East, and the Atlantic. Naturally enough, such a view found small countenance in the Antipodes. For the Australians and New Zealanders the struggle in Malaya—the gateway to Australia—is no side-show, but a most vital battle. Small wonder, then, that the criticisms of the conduct of the Malayan campaign were caustic in the extreme. Bitter, too, were the denunciations of the civil and military administrations at Singapore; ineptness and inefficiency were only two of the ingredients constituting what was scathingly referred to as the "Singapore mentality."

"It is a pity so much will have to be suffered by gallant soldiers and innocent people," said Mr. Herbert Evatt, Commonwealth Minister for External Affairs, on Jan. 23, "to prove that Malaya is not a side-show but a primary and vital struggle between the Democracies and the three Axis powers. We can weaken Hitler and his power to invade Britain and attack the United States by an all-in fight against Japan now, not later. Later may be too late . . . If Japan is allowed to control or accumulate vast stores of raw material in the Pacific, the economic blockade to some extent can be turned against the Empire. If Japan is allowed to bring more and more strategic bases under her sway, her powerful navy and air force will then turn and help Hitler to subjugate Britain and the United States." Then Mr. J. Beasley, Minister for Supply and Development, after declaring that "the rising sun is nearly overhead," urged that ships, guns, planes, and troops must be got to Malaya *now*. "The Battle of the Pacific won, we can beat the Japanese navy here; the Battle of the Pacific lost, the Japanese navy is ready for service in the Atlantic. So the Battle of the Pacific is the Battle of the Atlantic."

This point of view was not new; indeed, it had been expressed by Australian politicians and Australian newspapers since the opening of the Japanese war, even earlier. Shortly after Christmas Mr. Curtin himself had "spilt the beans" in an article in the "Melbourne Herald," in which he had declared that Australians refused to accept the dictum that the Pacific struggle should be treated as a "subordinate segment of the general conflict." The Australian Government, he went on, regarded the Pacific struggle as primarily one in which the United States and Australia must have the fullest say in the direction of the Democracies' fighting plan. "Australia looks to America, free from any pangs as to traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom. We know the problem that the United Kingdom faces, but we know that Australia can go and Britain still hold on. We are determined that Australia shall not go . . ." Australian policy would be shaped towards obtaining Russian aid and working out, with the United States as the major factor, a plan of Pacific strategy, with the British, Chinese and Dutch forces.

This statement by the Labour Premier aroused much criticism in Australia, and Mr. Curtin soon found it advisable to declare that he was not suggesting for a moment any weakening of the ties between the United Kingdom and Australia. Australia looked towards the United States, he said, as England looked to France when the *entente cordiale* was concluded; the new relationship to the United States was a military alliance, necessitated by geographical considerations. His article meant that Australia as part of the British Commonwealth must face the strategic problems of our own defenders with realism, and it was because Australians wished to remain part of the Commonwealth that they insisted that their voice should be heard. And that voice (so it was urged "down under") was not being heard, or heard sufficiently. Cabling from England to his newspapers in Australia, Sir Keith Murdoch argued that Britain was taking a tremendous responsibility, "unwise in any event, but shattering in effect if things go wrong, in deciding for all British people everywhere, including the nine million whites in the South-Western Pacific, 12,000 miles away, all matters relating to strategy and the direction of the war."

So Sir Keith Murdoch urged the entry of a "stout Dominion element" into the War Cabinet, and the plea was immensely reinforced on Jan. 24, when it was announced that Mr. Curtin had asked Mr. Churchill to accord Australia a seat in an Imperial War Cabinet and also in a Pacific War Council, both yet to be formed.

Meanwhile, Australia was making ready to meet the invader. The cream of her young men, 200,000 volunteers, were operating in the Australian Imperial Force, fighting in the jungles of Malaya or in the Middle East, but all men capable of bearing arms were mobilized by Mr. Forde on Jan. 24.

Some there were who visualized the almost immediate descent by the Japanese on the Australian mainland; others were of the opinion that if war came to Australia it would take the shape of air raids on Darwin, and on Cairns, Townsville, and other places on the east coast of Queensland. The Japanese might attempt a drive across the continent from Darwin to Adelaide, or along the Queensland coastal belt to Brisbane and perhaps to Sydney. But Australia is a country of vast distances and of indifferent communications. Thus it seemed on balance more probable that the Japanese would attempt to consolidate their hold on both sides of the Torres Strait, for the strait is an Allied life-line, and through it (we may presume) planes and ships are being rushed from America to the support of the Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and Singapore. If that life-line be cut, then the tide of succour must be diverted some thousands of miles round the south of the Australian continent.

Now India Triumphs Where Rome Held Sway

INDIAN TROOPS IN LIBYA include the Rajput Rifles. Men of this regiment are here seen clearing the ruins of ancient Cyrene after its capture. The Indian regiments in Libya have fully maintained their great traditions, and the 4th Indian Division was mentioned in dispatches from Cairo for the gallant manner in which it beat off three strong German counter-attacks, delivered with superior forces, on Dec. 13, 14 and 15, 1941. The Indian Army has now grown to nearly 1,000,000—more than four times its pre-war size. *Photo. British Official: Crown Copyright*

Our Searchlight on the War

SALUTE TO GREECE

Neither famine nor threats have persuaded the Greeks to surrender any of the British and Anzac officers and soldiers who remain in hiding among them. The Greek death rate each day from starvation and exposure in Athens and Piraeus alone exceeds 2,000.

THE tragedy of Greece is the supreme sorrow and irony of the war. To recall that this beautiful land and valiant people thrashed the contemptible Fascist bully only to be ground down by the German homicides is to make one despair at the terrible, if temporary, power of evil over good. It is the bitterest news to know that such heroism as the Greeks displayed is rewarded only by cruelty and starvation, and that men and women fall down and die in the streets of Athens, the fount of Liberty and the shrine of Demosthenes. Under the auspices of the International Red Cross we are trying to get food through to Greece, and we hope that Turkey and Egypt will be able to do something. The German, Italian and Bulgarian scum now in occupation take pleasure in making Greece suffer for her courage. We can only console ourselves with the knowledge that the eclipse of Hellas is no more than a miserable phenomenon that will pass. There will come a time when Greece will rise again greater in power and even more profound in spirit for her sublime defiance and grief. While the Allies fight and toil with that

H.R.H. the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, who died on Jan. 16, 1942, at the age of 91. He was a great-uncle of the King and senior Field-Marshal of the British Army. *Photo, Wide World*

object, the whole civilized world salutes her. The future of Greece is bound inextricably with ours. She will be unleashed from the tyranny of the mechanized savages who now pollute her soil.

REICHENAU THE RUTHLESS

He was "the standard-bearer of the thoughts of a new age," one who imparted lustre to the "eternal verities" of the German soldier, and whose name would live for ever in the history of the German people and its armed forces.—*Hitler's Order of the Day on the death of Marshal von Reichenau*

NAZI butcher number one on the east front, Marshal von Reichenau died mysteriously, but his crimes will live after him. It is interesting to compare Hitler's eulogium with the Reichenau Document, a secret order signed by the commander of the 6th German Army, and discovered by the Red Army among other Gestapo papers at Klin after the Germans' precipitate retreat. No plainer incitement to torture and murder emanated from the councils of the sadistic Gestapo. Lest any German soldier should misunderstand his duty he is frankly told that his task "goes beyond the scope of the normal functions of the military." Some Nazis are acting "frivolously" in allowing any food to the Russians. Such an act is "unnecessary humanitarianism." Unless the Russians behind the German lines collaborate with the Nazis they are to be exterminated. All buildings which are not of use as quarters for German army units, as well as all "symbols of the domination of the Bolsheviks, must be destroyed. No treasures of history and art in the east are of the slightest consequence." There is authentic evidence in a further document appended to this order that Hitler inspired this policy. "The standard-bearer of the thoughts of a new age" carried out his master's ideas to the letter. All Nazi thoughts have one beginning and one end. They begin with envy and hatred and end with pillage, murder and destruction. In that sense the "eternal verities" of the German soldier have a meaning. They are true to the nature of the blond beast.

GANGSTERS AND MYTHS

Japanese propaganda has been endeavouring to prove that parts of South America were once conquered and civilized by Japan.

LIKE the German tribes who excite their barbarous mentality with dreams of Aryanism and supermen, the Japanese are trying to prove that they are the only civilized Asiatics. The truth is that, in spite of their arts, which, in any case, do not approach in grandeur and antiquity those of the Chinese, the Japanese are an essentially primitive people. While they have quickly assimilated the industrial ideas of the west they have never acquired any of our superior ethical standards. It is no mere accident that the two most backward nations, spiritually, are now fighting side by side under a similar oligarchy of murder for the enslavement of mankind. Not only do the Japanese hope to spread their tyranny over Asia, but they have cast covetous eyes on South America, and the complete break of the 21 South American states with the Axis is a logical policy. The two Americas must unite against Japanese and German aggression. As part of their imperialistic programme the yellow men long ago started a propaganda drive in Peru, and many books were published by the Japanese in Spanish to the effect that they were the founders of the Inca empire. Needless to say, this surprising and ingenious idea is repugnant to Indo-Americans who believe in an original kinship with the civilized Chinese.

IF THE NAZIS INVADE US

Quite a few Englishmen are wondering how best they could serve their country in the event of a German invasion in force.

WE must never forget that Britain is still the chief obstacle to German world domination. She stopped the enemy in 1940, and she stopped him alone. The Nazis may come at us some day in full fury. With our characteristic optimism there is a tendency to think that the Home Front has seen the worst. Civil Defence rose splendidly to the occasion under bombing and will do so again when the time comes, but forced inactivity must naturally affect discipline and enthusiasm. All male civil defenders should include in their training a compulsory course of arms instruction, so that, in an emergency, they can take their place in the Home Guard. When the Germans were first nearing Moscow there was a Soviet *levée en masse*, and total mobilization for *service with the army* of every able-bodied man and woman between 16 and 50. The men were sandwiched among the regulars, the women were ordered to dig trenches and set tank traps. They stopped the Germans, but they were able to do this only because they had been training for some months previously.

PACT OF BLOOD

From the prairies and the teeming cities of Iowa and the North-West, these American soldiers had come thousands of miles, not to sojourn among strangers, but among grateful friends and among comrades of the British fighting services.—*Sir Archibald Sinclair, in welcoming American troops landed in Northern Ireland*

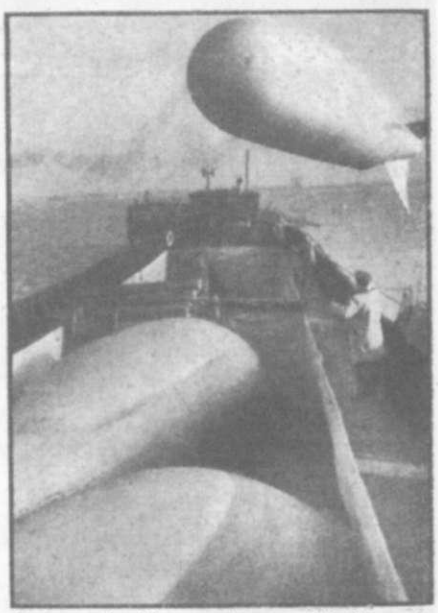
THE arrival of United States soldiers in Northern Ireland is a historic and heartening event. As in 1917 so in 1942, the New World comes to help save Europe from the old Germanic curse. It was the presence of American troops in ever-increasing numbers on the battlefields of France that finally convinced the Kaiser that Germany could not win. The sons of their fathers again take up the challenge thrown down by tyranny. They, like us, will look upon this war as part of the old unfinished war of 1914–18. But this time the nations will not slip back into isolationism, indifference and cynicism, for the progressive peoples in Britain, America and Russia are determined on collaboration in the ideals of freedom, justice and peace. In welcoming the American troops, how truly thankful we are that Ulster remains part of the Empire! The vision and patriotism of Northern Ireland recalls the splendid work of Earl Craigavon. Meanwhile Mr. de Valera's Eire clings to an out-moded and increasingly dangerous neutrality—a not too happy status for any nation professing liberty at this supreme crisis in human fate.

Railings being removed from Parliament Square, Westminster, to provide war scrap. Inset, Mr. G. M. Carter, appointed Director of Demolition and Recovery.
Photos, Keystone, Associated Press

WISE FINANCIAL POLICY

"No war, least of all this present one, so stupendous in its expenditure, can be waged without a measure of inflation."—*Sir Noton Barclay*

OUR financial and monetary policy in this war is far more effective than it was during 1914–18. A measure of inflation is inevitable at a time when the earning power of the nation is universally increased, but high taxation, E.P.D., and the curtailment of spending power due to rationing and the general limitation of purchasable articles have reduced consumption. Whereas in the last war certain luxury trades appeared to flourish, and the new rich of all classes were able to squander their money, if they felt so inclined, there is little to buy in the present circumstances. The policy of restricting the supply of goods is the simplest way of preventing over-consumption, for real inflation begins when many people buy more than they need. Inflation, like a high temperature, generally results in a collapse, or financial slump. This happened after the last war as a result of an orgy of over-spending, speculation and capital expansion. Any excess of purchasing power over production should therefore be watched, and war-time control of finance should not be suddenly abandoned. We must, get back to freedom in this respect, but restrictions should be gradually modified to avoid unhealthy financial conditions.



An operational barge, where small balloons of London's river balloon barrage units are kept. One of the balloons is going to be transferred by R.A.F. speed boat to a destroyer whose balloon needs repair. *Photo, Fox*

In Russia the Poles Are Forming an Army

Men of the Polish divisions now being raised on Russian soil are seen above, marching along a country road in Russia. They are being equipped by Britain and the United States.

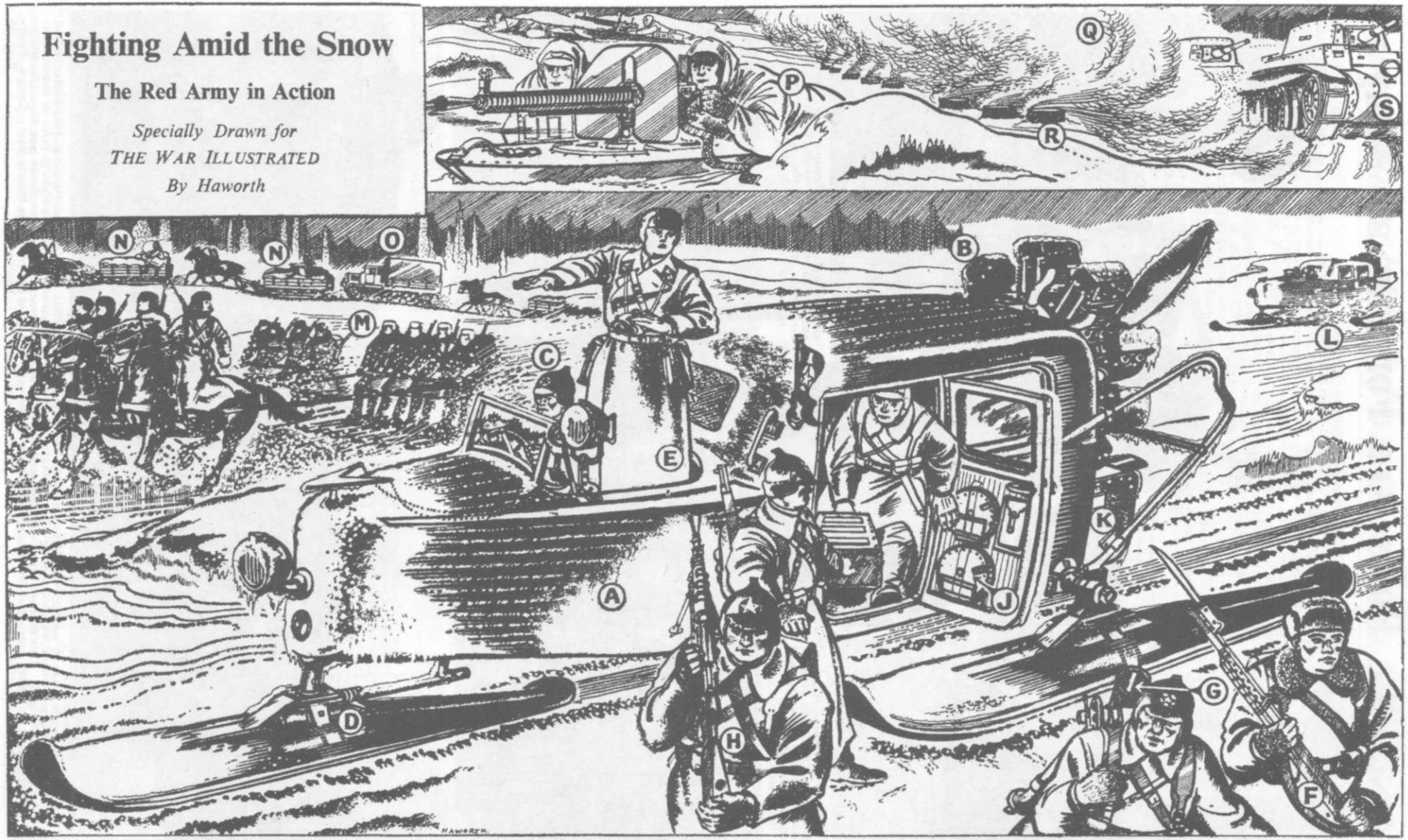
Gen. Sikorski, Polish Premier and C.-in-C., inspects the Polish Women's Auxiliary Service formed in Russia. Circle, Gen. Anders, commander of the Polish forces raised in Russia.

POLISH ARMY IN RUSSIA, now nearly ready to take the field, symbolizes the new policy of cooperation between Free Poland and the Soviet Union. The original agreement between Russia and Poland, reached shortly after the Nazi invasion of Russia, gave the Poles the right to form an autonomous army to fight under Soviet High Command. Two divisions were originally envisaged, but at a conference between Mr. Stalin and Gen. Sikorski in Dec. 1941 the number was brought up to 100,000 men. Mr. Stalin agreed that 25,000 Polish soldiers should be sent to the Middle East. Centre, Polish infantry training in Russia. Below, Polish artillery. *Photos, Polish Ministry of Information*

Fighting Amid the Snow

The Red Army in Action

Specially Drawn for
THE WAR ILLUSTRATED
By Haworth



EVEN in the depth of the Russian winter the Red Army has continued its offensive, slowly but surely pushing back the enemy hordes until what was intended to be a voluntary straightening of the line threatens to become a rout. These drawings show how the Russians are able to bring constant pressure upon the enemy in all sectors, despite appalling weather conditions.

Air Sledges

In the main drawing is shown a powerful air sledge (A); it carries six men and an officer as well as arms and ammunition. The motive power is a large radial aero-engine (B), which sends the vehicle skimming over the snow at a great speed. The driver (C) steers by means of a wheel, the mechanism acting on the single front runner (D). For night journeys there are a head-light and a movable searchlight.

In the drawing the sledge is shown halted and the officer (E), watching the enemy through his field-glasses, directs the operations of the sledge crew. The arms these men carry illustrate the types of light weapons used by the Russians : (F) an automatic rifle with a short knife-like bayonet, (G) a small mortar, (H) a light machine-gun ; drums of ammunition for this gun are seen at (J). Two soldiers are lifting out boxes of hand-grenades, and shells for the mortar will also be carried. (K) is the petrol tank. In the distance can be seen other sledges travelling at speed (L).

Skis and Horse-drawn Sledges

Another method by which the Russians move large numbers of men quickly is shown at (M). By means of a special harness and a pole each cavalryman pulls two infantrymen on skis along with him. Sometimes two horses are harnessed together to take six men.

Seen in the distance is a long train of horse-drawn sledges (N) taking stores and equipment of all kinds. The Russians also use a kind of motor-lorry with tracks like a tank (O). Providing the tracks are broad these vehicles (and tanks also) can operate quite successfully.

Ski Troops

The inset drawing shows (P) Russian ski-troops with machine-guns mounted on sledges. The two men pull the sledge by means o a harness. A white smoke-screen (Q), made by smoke pots (R), is often used to cover the movements of tanks (S), which are painted white.

Mojaisk Falls: the Great Retreat Goes On

When Russian troops entered Mojaisk on the morning of Jan. 19, the final stage of the offensive operations in this sector of the Moscow front was completed, and the last direct threat to the Russian capital, whose imminent fall Hitler has so often proclaimed, was removed.

MOJAISK, captured by the Germans on Oct. 14, 1941, was certainly intended to remain in German hands for the winter. Of great strategical importance, barring a main road and a railway, it was converted into a bastion by the Nazis, with three general lines of defence which included several strongly fortified villages, concrete blockhouses, earthworks, and barbed wire.

General Zhukov probably decided, when the Russian counter-offensive was launched on Dec. 6, that nothing could be gained by a frontal attack on so strong a position. He set out, first of all, to outflank it north and south, and the map in page 446 shows how, by Jan. 13, 1942, the Soviet armies on the Moscow front had thrust deep wedges into the German lines reaching nearly to Rjev in the north and Lyudinovo in the south, thus threatening the Nazi forces at Mojaisk with encirclement. By a series of operations which began in Dec. the Germans were driven back from their advance positions at Svenigorod and Golitsino, almost at the gates of Moscow, to the defences of Mojaisk, where they were held while the outflanking movements were made with great success.

Mojaisk being the key to the Russian capital, it was here that the Germans had probably concentrated more war material than at any other point of the front, which would explain why they defended the place with such ferocity when strategically, with the two arms of a pincers closing around it, the position was indefensible. Moreover, between it and Smolensk, 200 miles in the rear, there were no natural obstacles which could be turned into a line of defence.

Having seriously defeated the enemy at Dorokhovo, south-east of Mojaisk, on Jan. 13, the Soviet forces hurled the Germans back on to the Mojaisk defences. The outskirts of the town were encircled by a powerful line of fortifications, but the Russians, by marching over trackless land, by-passed many strong points and infiltrated through the German defences with great skill, appearing suddenly before Mojaisk itself.

The battle for Mojaisk proper began on Sunday, Jan. 11. Lieut-Gen. Govorov, whose forces captured the town, told a war correspondent of "Pravda" how the place was stormed. "In the northern, eastern, and southern outskirts of the town," he said, "the Germans had constructed rows of

GEN. VON REICHENAU, who commanded a German Group on the Ukraine Front, has died, according to a Berlin statement issued on Jan. 17, "as the result of a stroke."
Photo, International Graphic Press

blockhouses. In the centre brick houses were transformed into strong points. It was possible to overcome this formidable system of defence only by means of concentrated artillery and trench-mortar attacks. In the eastern sector the firing points and enemy blockhouses were subjected to terrific direct fire by our artillery. Dive-bombers attacked the retreating enemy columns day and night."

While this reduction of the fortifications was proceeding the pincers movement north and south of the town was making such headway that, under the threat of being surrounded, the Germans were compelled to evacuate the town, leaving only a rearguard to cover their retreat. Then Soviet infantry broke through into the south-west suburbs of Mojaisk and occupied the railway station. At the same time other units, entering the northern suburb, wiped out the defending bodies of Germans. Street by street the German rearguard was mopped up, Soviet troops finally penetrated into the western part of the town, and on Jan. 19 Comrade Koltunov raised the Red Flag once more over the building of the City Soviet. So ended what, in effect, was the siege of Moscow.

Four days after the recapture of Mojaisk a large meeting of the working population of the town was held, and the secretary of the Mojaisk committee of the Bolshevik Party, who, while the Germans were in occupation, had been directing guerilla operations in the district, announced that the restoration of the town would begin immediately, special repair brigades having been formed.

An interesting sidelight on the campaign is given by the "Daily Telegraph" Special Correspondent in Russia, who states that the Germans got away most of their heavy equipment from Mojaisk by rail, having reduced the Russian broad gauge to their standard European one. Now the Russian Labour Corps are working like ants to change it back again.

Following the fall of Mojaisk the Russian troops pressed on, and the next major operation was the deepening of the wedge that had been driven into the German lines on a seventy-mile front from Kholm to Toropets, midway between Moscow and Leningrad. The main objective on this front was the freeing of the Leningrad-Ukraine railway, fifty miles west of Kholm, one of the German army's life-lines. By Jan. 24 the Russians were reported to be within forty miles of the important railway centre of Veliki Luki, and Russian forces advancing south from Staraya Toropa and Zapadnaya Dvina directly threatened Smolensk, where Hitler had established his winter H.Q., with envelopment. A flanking movement from the south in the direction of Yelnia accentuated this menace.

Moreover, the greater part of the German armies lying between Novgorod and Lake Peipus receive rations and supplies by the Leningrad-Ukraine line and its seizure by the Russians would be a heavy blow to the besiegers of Leningrad. Apart, too, from the importance of the railway itself, the development of the Russian advance westwards towards Pskov represents a growing menace to the German troops freezing in front of Leningrad. Should the Soviet troops continue to advance at the same rate of speed, the assailants of Leningrad may be forced to beat a hasty retreat towards the Baltic States to avoid being cut off.

YASNAYA POLYANA, near Tula, was the home of Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian writer, who was born and was buried there. Russian officers are standing by Tolstoy's grave after the recapture of the town. On the left is part of the burial ground of German soldiers. Tolstoy's house, which had been for many years a Tolstoy museum, was sacked and defiled by the Nazis when they captured the town. Relics, manuscripts, books and pictures were either stolen or destroyed and the furniture was used for making fires for heating German troops. *Photo, Planet News*

'Victory or Not, An Episode of War Most Glorious to the Men Who

Left, Sikh troops entering Giovanni B
Above, a Blenheim bomber on a wate

IN Cyrenaica a new battle developed
forces began to push eastwards fr
occupied Jedabia, and swiftly advanced
midway between Jedabia and Mekili.
the convoys attacked in the Mediterra
achieved a tactical surprise from the ou
which comprised our advanced element
Afrika Korps These light forces were
panzers came up against the British ma
major scale developed.

All the same, when Mr. Churchill
speech in the House of Commons on
Libya battle, "whether you call it a vi
highly profitable transaction," since our
61,000, and to everyone engaged it was a

berta during the battles in Cyrenaica.
logged airfield in the Western Desert.

on Jan 21, 1942, when Gen. Rommel's
m El Agheila. Two days later they re-
to points north and north-east of Msus,
The enemy, strongly reinforced, despite
mean by our naval units and aircraft,
itset catching the British light forces
with strong armoured columns of the
thrust backwards, and when Rommel's
armoured strength a tank battle on a

ame to describe the campaign in his
Jan. 27, he was able to claim that the
ctory or not, must be at the moment a
losses were 18,000 against the enemy's
most glorious episode

Top right, tired and dejected Italian priso
armoured car column having their Ch

ers. Below right, men of a South African
stmas dinner in recaptured Benghazi.

Bitter Battles for Malaya and Burma

Having borne the brunt of the fighting in Malaya for five weeks, British and Indian troops were reinforced by the Australian Imperial Force on Jan. 16. Some valiant delaying actions were fought, the Australians quickly adapting themselves to the ingenious military "jiu jitsu" of the Japanese hordes.

AFTER seven weeks of war the Japanese had "saturated" the Malayan Peninsula. Their filtering tactics covered nearly the whole terrain, innumerable troops seeping down the east and west coasts and spreading far and wide throughout the forests and plantations.

It was a war of ambush and trap on both sides, and the enemy, having the advantage of superior numbers in men and machines, exploited a system of guerilla war specially adapted to forest land. It was obvious that the Japanese were avoiding a pitched battle on a large scale until within striking distance of Singapore.

After the fall of Kuala Lumpur and Port Swettenham British forces consolidated at various points in the Negri Sembilan area. Here, though fatigued by five weeks' continuous campaigning, they were able to delay the Japanese until relieved by the Australians. The news that these splendid soldiers were in action in Malaya for the first time was a source of renewed hope and encouragement not only to the defenders of Singapore but to the whole of the British Empire.

We can imagine with what heartfelt relief the tired British and Indian soldiers watched the "Aussies" take up their positions in the line about 150 miles from Singapore. Mr. Forde, deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Coordination, announced on Jan. 16 that the Australian Imperial Force had had its first encounter with the Japanese and had inflicted heavy casualties on them. He had earlier received a message from Major-Gen. Gordon Bennett, G.O.C. A.I.F. in Malaya, which said:

"I am alive and fit, and commanding the forces covering the western sector with British, Indian and Australian troops. They are now in action contacting the enemy. Our troops are eager to fight. I trust the enemy will soon realize that I am alive."

The last sentence is in contradiction of the Japanese lie, deliberately put out to gain information about the A.I.F. positions, as to the capture and death of Gen. Gordon Bennett.

The change-over was a skilful military manoeuvre, the whole of the A.I.F. reaching the front without a casualty under cover of a heavy storm. Had the weather been fine the Japanese might have discovered the Australian positions and dive-bombed the advancing columns. It was not long before news of a heartening success relieved the monotonous chronicle of British retreats and evacuations in Malaya. On Jan. 18 the world learned that the Australians had killed about a thousand of the enemy, using those very methods of ambush which the Japanese themselves had found so effective.

For instance, in the region of Muar on Jan. 18 the Japanese launched an attack with ten medium tanks. A party of Australians with two concealed anti-tank guns allowed the tanks to pass down the road. When the enemy machines were thirty yards away the rear gun came into action. With loud shouts of "Whacko!" the Australians fired at point-blank range. The close-up tanks made a perfect target, and five were put out of action and caught fire, their ammunition exploding at the same time. As the sixth tank was shielded behind the others an Australian raced down the road and destroyed it with hand-grenades. The remaining four tanks were picked off by the Australians' second gun. Japanese infantry, for whom the tanks were the spearhead, deployed among the rubber plantations, where the Australians engaged them for a whole day with bayonet and Tommy gun. Our men, greatly outnumbered, were in danger of being surrounded, but were relieved by reinforcements with Bren guns and armoured cars.

It is not surprising that man for man the Australians, with their splendid physique and freer intelligence, are greatly superior to the Japanese. The story of an Australian corporal, stripped to the waist, moving through the jungle and engaging six Japanese, is by no means exceptional. Finding his bayonet useless on this occasion, he threw it away and, using a sharp chopper called a *purang*, he dispatched the entire Japanese party.

As the enemy drew nearer Singapore our fighter and bomber aircraft, though limited in numbers, had greater opportunities of bombing Japanese concentrations and several valuable offensive sweeps were made in the Muar-Batu Pahat area. Here a number of barges which were bringing fresh Japanese forces into Johore were successfully attacked.

The important town of Batu Pahat fell into enemy hands. The R.A.F., however, accounted for about 100 Japanese planes during the week ending Jan. 24. Singapore suffered heavily in a big raid on Jan. 21, 383 persons being killed, 625 admitted to hospital and 100 detained at first-aid posts. In this raid the Japanese lost 13 planes.

By Jan. 28 the battle was raging 50 miles from Singapore itself; and on that day the Straits Settlements Government ordered the evacuation of a coastal strip one mile wide on the northern shore of Singapore Island.

Yet another move in the Japanese dream of Asia for the Asiatics was opened up by the enemy on Jan. 17. Spreading from Thailand across the mountains, the yellow plague advanced and took Myitta and then the coast town of Tavoy, centre of the tin industry in Burma. In the face of superior forces our troops were withdrawn some thirty miles from the Thai frontier. Myawadi and Moulmein were bombed by enemy aircraft on Jan. 20, and army headquarters reported that a fierce battle was raging between British and Siamese troops on the new Burma front in the Kawkareik area. It was learned on Jan. 26 that heavy Chinese reinforcements were proceeding to Burma.

GEN. WAVELL, Supreme Commander of the forces of the United Nations in the S.W. Pacific, left, talking to his deputy, Maj-Gen. G. H. Brett. In the middle is Rear-Adm. Thomas Hart, commanding the naval forces of the United Nations in the same area. This radioed photograph was taken at their first meeting "somewhere in the Dutch East Indies."

Photo, Associated Press

MALAY PENINSULA, showing the battle areas in Burma and Johore. In the Burma area Siamese troops were the first to cross the frontier, some 45 miles east of Moulmein in the region of Palu. They were followed by strong Japanese attacks on Sukli and Tiwakale.

Map, Courtesy of the "News Chronicle"

Ashore in Triumph Goes the Rising Sun

JAPANESE INVASION TROOPS are seen in action in these first photographs of Japanese landings "somewhere in the Pacific." Top, hauling equipment ashore from invasion barges. Centre, a smoke screen being laid, according to the German caption, to cover the landing of Japanese troops. Below, Japanese invasion troops advancing after landing preceded by the banner of the Rising Sun. Circle, General Sugiyama, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army. General Sugiyama was made Chief of the General Staff in 1940 and directed the first Japanese assault on French Indo-China.

Photos, Keystone, Wide World

Our Diary of the War

SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 1942 *869th day*

Russian Front.—Red Army pressed forward on three main fronts. Fierce street fighting in Mojaisk.

Mediterranean.—Comiso aerodrome, Sicily, attacked by Hurrybombers. Night attack on aerodrome at Catania, Sicily.

Far East.—In Malaya, heavy fighting in Northern Johore, in the region of Batu Anam. Japs claimed capture of Batu Pahat. In the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur's forces beat off heavy Japanese attack in Batan peninsula. Bangkok raided by R.A.F. on night of Jan. 18-19.

Home.—German aircraft dropped bombs on a Shetland island. Admiralty announced destruction of a Dornier bomber by destroyer Walpole.

General.—U Saw, Prime Minister of Burma, arrested for alleged complicity with Japanese.

MONDAY, JAN. 19 *870th day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced sinking of destroyer Vimiera.

Russian Front. — Russians recaptured Mojaisk, removing the last direct threat to Moscow. Germans claimed to have re-occupied Feodosia in the Crimea.

Far East.—In Malaya further landings were made on the west coast by Japanese troops. It was reported from Rangoon that the enemy had occupied Tavoy in Lower Burma.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20 *871st day*

Air.—R.A.F. attacked Emden at night.

Russian Front.—German armies in Mojaisk sector retreating towards Vyazma. Soviet announced recapture of Ostashevo, 100 miles north of Rjev.

Far East.—In Malaya heavy fighting between mouth of Muar river and Batu Pahat. In the Philippines new attacks on Gen. MacArthur's positions in the Batan peninsula held. U.S. War Dept. announced that a Japanese cruiser was sunk by American bombers off Mindanao. Heavy Jap air raid on Sabang, off N. Sumatra. Communiqué from Rangoon reported crossing of Burmese frontier east of Myawaddi by Thai troops. Melbourne announced a heavy Japanese air attack on Rabaul, in New Guinea.

Home.—Few enemy raiders dropped bombs on E. Coast after dusk. N.E. coast town bombed and machine-gunned by single raider during daylight.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21 *872nd day*

Air.—R.A.F. made heavy night attack on Bremen and Emden. R.A.F. daylight sweep over N. France.

Russian Front.—Germans falling back towards Smolensk. Fierce fighting outside Borodino, 12 miles west of Mojaisk.

Far East.—Heavy air raid on Singapore in which 13 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Heavy fighting continued between Muar and Batu Pahat. In Philippines, Gen. MacArthur's troops made a successful counter-attack. One of his guerilla bands gained a local success in a surprise raid against an enemy aerodrome at Tuguegarao. More large-scale air attacks on New Guinea.

Home.—A few bombs at night in E. Anglia. A daylight raider dropped bombs on one of the Shetland Islands.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22 *873rd day*

Russian Front.—Red Army units 25 miles west of Mojaisk. Uvarovo recaptured. Fierce fighting in the Valdai Hills and around Rjev.

Africa.—Gen. Rommel's forces made a surprise sortie in Libya.

Far East.—Heavy fighting in Western Johore. In Luzon, Philippines, Japs reported to be throwing in an entire army of 200,000 men. Japanese invasion armada off Rabaul, New Guinea. Moulmein, in Southern Burma, bombed by Japanese.

Home.—Dover area shelled for 3½ hours by German coastal batteries. A few bombs dropped by night in E. Anglia.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23 *874th day*

Russian Front.—Moscow reported a Soviet advance of 65 miles on a seventy-mile front between Moscow and Lake Ilmen.

Far East.—Japanese forces landed on Kieta, one of the Solomon Islands. Imperial troops made a further withdrawal in Malaya. In air battles over Rangoon at least 21 Japanese planes were shot down. Attacks on American and Filipino forces in Luzon repulsed. Dutch announced that their bombers made twelve direct hits on four enemy warships and four transports in Macassar Strait.

Africa.—General Rommel's forces re-occupied Jedabia.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24 *875th day*

Russian Front.—New Russian advance continued on a wide front. Soviet troops advancing upon the Leningrad-Ukraine railway in the direction of Veliki Luki.

Africa.—British and German forces engaged north-east of Jedabia.

Far East.—At least 16 more Japanese planes destroyed at Rangoon. In Malaya, Japanese claimed to have captured Yong Peng, 65 miles N.W. of Singapore. Enemy gained some ground in Luzon. U.S. Navy Dept. announced that American destroyers had attacked a Japanese convoy in Macassar Strait, sinking two ships and damaging others. Dutch bombers scored direct hits on transport and a destroyer and capsized a big passenger liner. A British ship destroyed a Japanese submarine. Japanese thought to have landed at Rabaul. Chinese planes destroyed two enemy transports off Indo-China. Night attack by British bombers on Bangkok.

General.—Official report on U.S. Navy losses at Pearl Harbour published.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25 *876th day*

Russian Front.—Moscow announced the recapture of Netidovo, on the railway line from Rjev to Veliki Luki. German defences around Rjev breached.

Mediterranean.—Air Ministry announced that R.A.F. and Navy aircraft had carried out a 24-hour attack on an enemy convoy in which a 20,000-ton liner was hit and believed sunk, a cruiser, destroyer and two merchant ships were damaged and a battleship probably hit.

Africa.—Tank battle still raging in the neighbourhood of Antelat, 50 miles N.E. of Jedabia.

Far East.—First communiqué issued from Gen. Wavell's Pacific H.Q. announced that during a 48-hour attack on the enemy convoy in Macassar Strait three ships were destroyed, four others probably sunk and 12 damaged out of the Japanese armada engaged in landing forces at the oil port of Balik Papan, in Dutch Borneo. In the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur launched a heavy counter-attack on Japanese troops in a Batan peninsula, scoring a "smashing success." A British communiqué from Burma announced that large Chinese reinforcements were pouring into Burma. In Malaya, British troops maintained their positions.

Home.—Bombs were dropped by enemy raiders on S.W. coast at night. One enemy bomber destroyed.

MONDAY, JAN. 26 *877th day*

Air.—R.A.F. fighter sweep over N. France. Hanover and Emden heavily attacked at night as well as the docks at Brest.

Russian Front. — Red Army advance towards Vyazma on central front continued, as did the advance towards Veliki Luki.

Africa.—Axis forces in Libya reached points beyond Msus, between Jedabia and Mekili.

Mediterranean.—Admiralty announced that five Axis ships had been torpedoed in Mediterranean. Three considered sunk.

Far East.—U.S. Navy Dept. announced that a U.S. submarine had torpedoed and possibly sunk a Japanese aircraft carrier in the Macassar Strait. Dutch and American planes continued to attack the Japanese convoy lying there. 10,000 Japanese reported to have landed at Rabaul, in New Guinea. In Malaya, Singapore announced capture of Batu Pahat, on the west coast, by Japanese.

Home.—Troops of the United States Army landed in Northern Ireland.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27 *878th day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced loss of H.M.S. Barham on Nov. 25, 1941, torpedoed in the Mediterranean.

Russian Front.—Moscow announced that Red Army troops on the Kalinin front were vigorously advancing.

Africa.—Tremendous attack by Allied air forces played havoc with Rommel's columns.

Far East.—More Japanese landings in Malaya. In Burma R.A.F. blew up the Kawkareik-Myawaddi road east of Moulmein. British garrison at Mergui evacuated. Batavia reported Japanese air raids on Macassar, Pontianak, Belawan, Padang, Parepare, Tanjong Pinang, Riouw Archipelago, and Amboyna. R.A.A.F. bombers sank three Japanese ships in Rabaul harbour. Chinese forces reported nearing Kowloon. Japanese ships hit in Macassar Strait now reported to include 11 warships and 17 transports sunk or badly damaged. U.S. Navy Dept. announced that Midway Island was still holding out.

Home.—Prime Minister reviewed the war situation in the House of Commons.

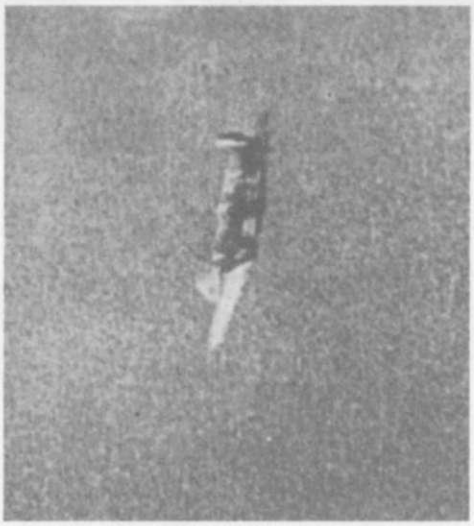
General.—Canada announced that she would send Britain as an outright gift £225,000,000 worth of munitions and food.

TWO KINGS MEET at luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel, London, following the signing of the Yugoslav-Greek agreement on Jan. 15. King Peter of Yugoslavia (left) emphasizes a point as he discusses the new Balkan Union with King George of the Hellenes.

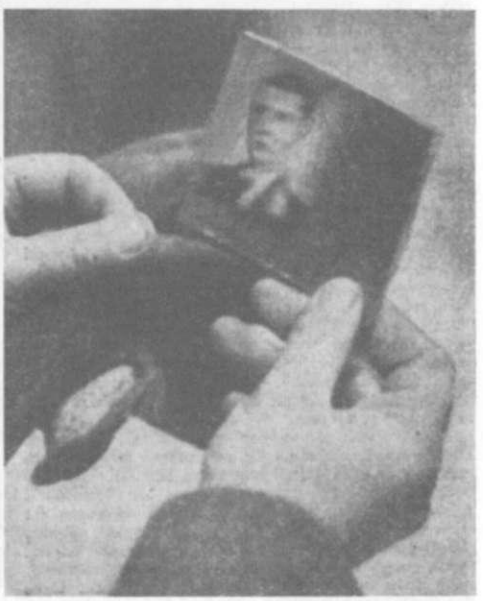
Photo, Associated Press

Muller the Nazi Pilot Won't Fly Again

Left, as a German plane approaches, Red Army soldiers man their A.A. gun, while another estimates the height with a range-finder. Above, the German plane turns to escape the fire.



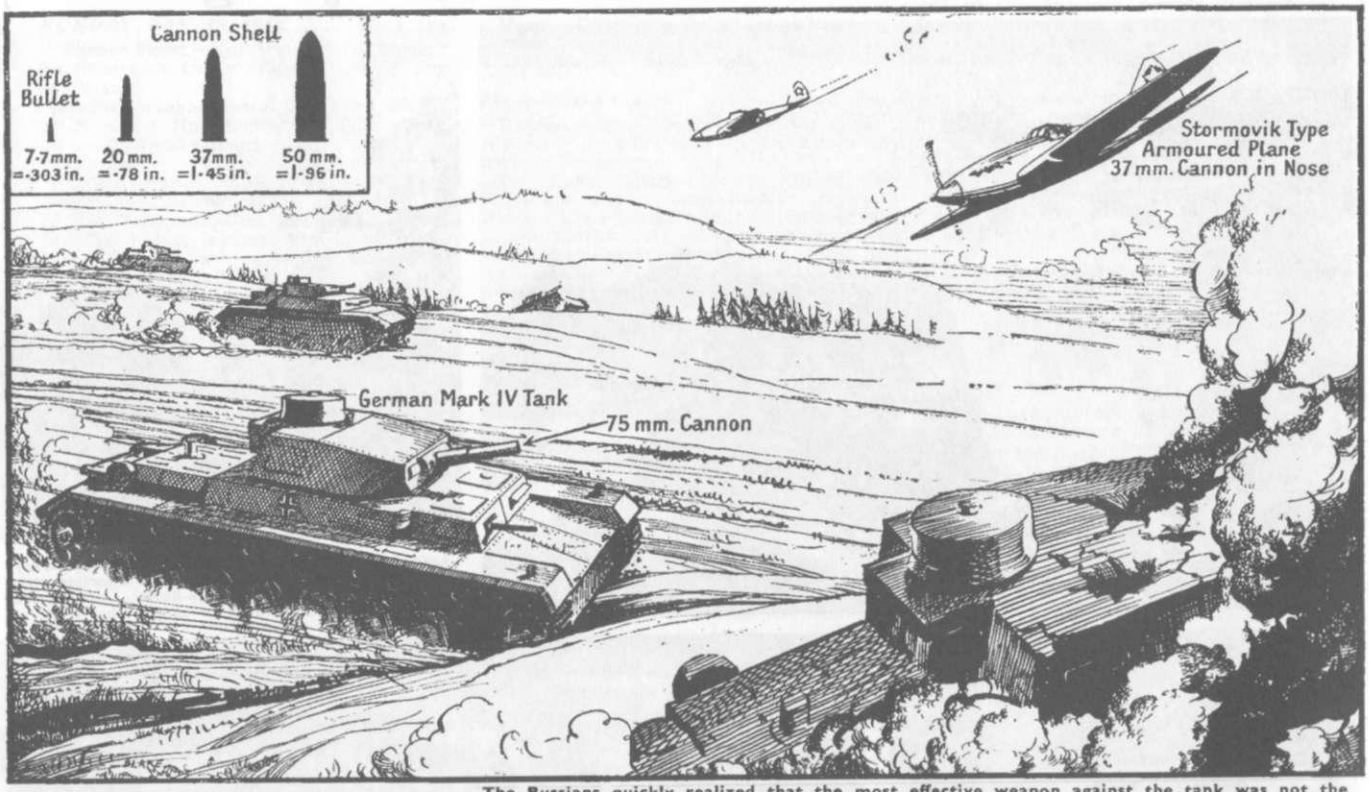
The plane is hit and hurtles to the ground, above. Right, beside the wreckage of the machine lies the body of the pilot.



The concluding stages of this dramatic incident, photographed during the opening of the great Russian counter-offensive, are seen above. Left, the gun and instruments of the wrecked aircraft are dismantled by the Red Army men. Right, a Soviet soldier examines the dead pilot's identity card—his name was Muller. There have been many Mullers lying in the snows of Russia since the Russians took the initiative on the Eastern front and the arrogant Luftwaffe has been severely mauled.

Photos, British Official: Crown Copyright

Russia Has Tank-Busters—Where Are Ours?



The Russians quickly realized that the most effective weapon against the tank was not the bomber, or even another tank, but a special anti-tank plane. It had to be armoured to fly low over its target and provided with cannon firing armour-piercing shell. As the Nazi Mark IV tank was almost immune against the normal 20-mm. cannon, heavier calibres were needed. The Stormovik was first adapted with 37-mm. (nearly 1½ in.) cannon, as seen in the diagram, and then special Stalin anti-tank planes were produced. The comparative sizes of cannon shell are indicated top left. *Specially drawn for* THE WAR ILLUSTRATED *by War Artists Ltd.*

IT was recently stated in "The Times" that: "Tanks in the open have proved that they cannot at present be dominated by the opposing air arm. No doubt the tacticians of the air have not shot their bolt; possibly armoured aircraft carrying quick-firing cannon may reassert the authority of air fleets over land fleets."

Most of our air correspondents seem to agree that the German heavy tank is not yet being effectively dealt with from the air. Experience has shown that the fast moving tank is a small and very difficult target for the bombing aeroplane, and there is a complete lack of evidence that the panzer units in Libya have been seriously damaged by high or low flying bombers. Many motor vehicles have been destroyed from the air but not many tanks. The "tank-buster" is clearly a very urgent need, but it has taken more than two years of mechanized fighting to disclose it. It is an unhappy comment upon the supposed close cooperation between our air and mechanized forces that, at this stage of the war, it has to be admitted, as more than one commentator does, "that we still need an efficient anti-tank aeroplane." The Beaufighter is the one machine reported in the N. African campaign to be armed with cannon, but it carries only 20 mm., and at least 37-mm. cannon are needed to deal with the heavily armoured German Mark IV tanks seen in this diagram. Their cannon fire a shell nearly equal to 4-in. calibre.

THE army authorities decided some time ago that the only weapon to deal with the tank was the tank, and we were told at the opening of the offensive that for the first time our men were meeting the Hun on equal terms with equal equipment. All the news from Libya has shown, however, that this method is not quickly decisive and results in heavy casualties in men and machines. We have our air superiority, and the R.A.F. has done excellent work both in cooperating with our troops and in destroying the enemy's supplies and communications. Without this domination of the skies the desert offensive would never have had hope of success.

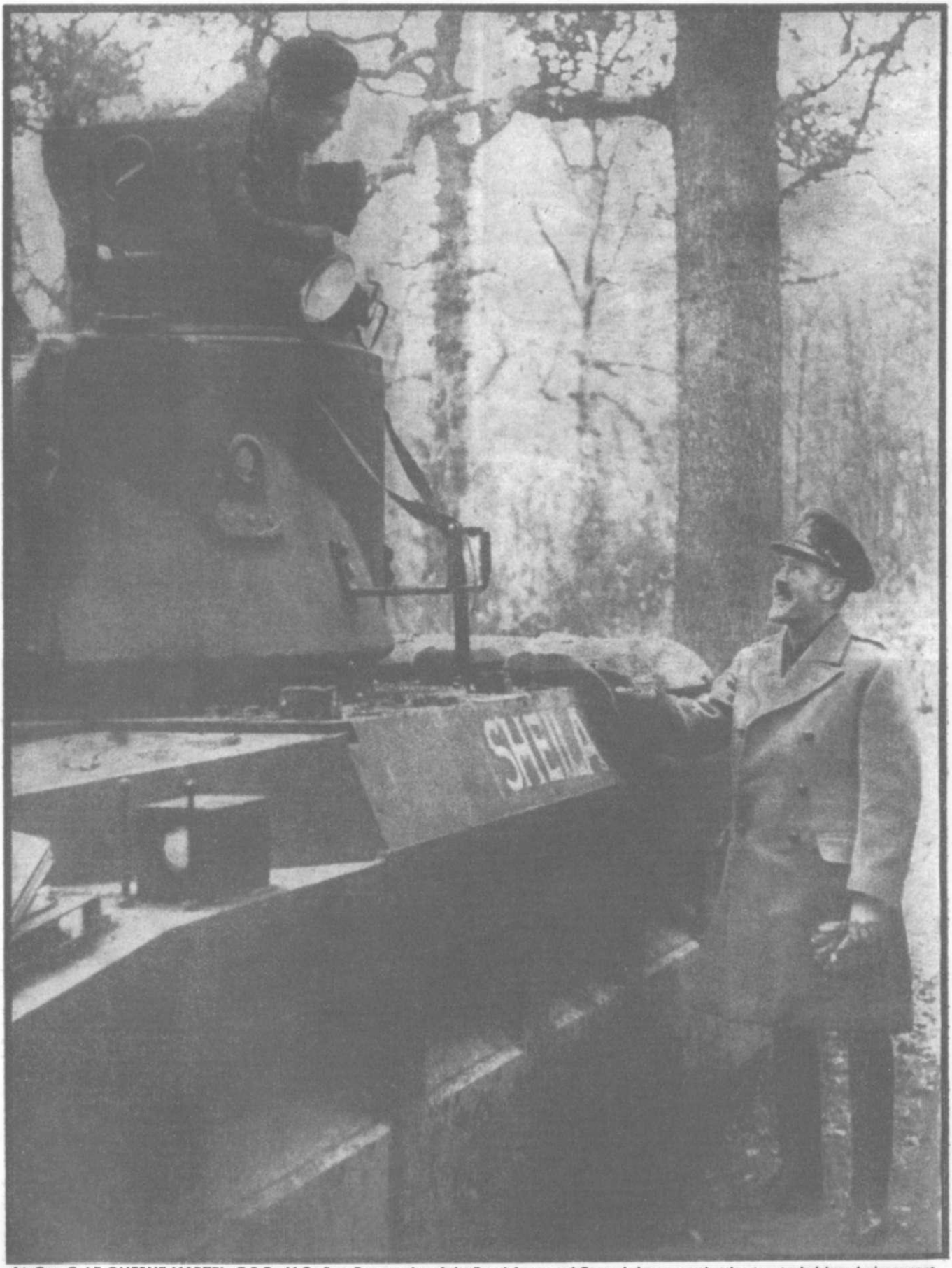
Tanks with air support are a chief weapon of the German offensive and specialized weapons are needed to deal with them from the air. This is particularly important in view of Rommel's proved capacity in repairing damaged tanks on the field and putting them into service again. Well-armoured planes able to fly low and attack with heavy cannon in power turrets are required, and it is understood that such machines were designed many months ago.

Our Russian allies saw the need for an effective air weapon against the heavy tank early in their fighting, and with the quickness of decision which they have so frequently shown, put anti-tank planes into production at once. They first made a new Stormovik, well armoured and provided with 37-mm. cannon, as shown in action in the diagram. Their newest anti-tank plane, the "Stalin" type, of which no details have been released, is armed with large bore cannon and is claimed to possess unprecedented armour-piercing strength. Early in Dec. 1941 one detachment of a Red Air Force unit flying the new plane had destroyed 80 tanks in a short period. A squadron similarly equipped destroyed 608 tanks in three months.

German tanks in Libya, such as those in the photograph above, have mostly been knocked out by artillery fire, especially by the 25-pdr. the "gunhow" illustrated in page 460. Anti-tank guns and artillery have a valuable and well-recognized part in the destruction of tanks, but no gun can have the mobility of the plane.

Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright

Martel of the Tanks Meets 'Sheila'



Lt.-Gen. G. LE QUESNE MARTEL, D.S.O., M.C., first Commander of the Royal Armoured Corps, is here seen chatting to a tank driver during recent Infantry versus Tanks exercises. General Martel has been associated with tanks since they were first employed, having served on the Staff of the Tank Corps in France for eighteen months in 1917-18. He was Assistant Director of Mechanization at the War Office from Oct. 1936 to Dec. 1937, and Deputy Director until Feb. 1939. He commanded the 50th Division during the Battle of France and led the counter-attack at Arras on May 23, 1940, when a handful of British tanks fought a great battle against superior numbers of enemy tanks. *Photo, Keystone*

Now It's Scrap Rubber that's Wanted

Old tires are now of great value to the war effort. Here is a dump in the Old Kent Road, London, awaiting removal.

These women are removing worn treads from tires too old to be suitable for re-treading. They will later be processed.

RECLAIMING RUBBER is an essential part of the war effort now that the rubber plantations in Malaya have been overrun by the enemy. Scrap rubber of all kinds is required to augment the supplies of crude rubber. Oval, part of a seven-acre pile of discarded rubber at the Akron plant of the Goodyear Co., in America. This will be regenerated. Above left, old treads of tires stored to await processing. Right, a girl weighs out chemical ingredients to be mixed with "reclaimed" rubber to make it suitable for various trade requirements.

Photos, Associated Press, Short & General

The Farmer Works Though Winter Grips the Land

"The nation wants all you can produce, and will pay for it," Mr. R. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, told farmers at Newcastle on Jan. 16. He went on to speak about new food problems added to those which already confronted the country by reason of recent events in the Pacific. There could, he said, "be no relaxation, no respite. It was to them that over 40,000,000 of our people were looking for a very great deal of the wherewithal to sustain them in this fight for their—and farmers'—existence." Even in the winter work goes steadily forward on the farms, and in this page are shown, top, a tractor levelling ground in Gloucestershire, and, below, a team of horses hauling timber at Bramham, Yorks. *Photos, Fox*

I Was There! .... Eye Witness Stories of the War

I Was Amazed that Our Beaufort Ever Got Home

The quality of our aircraft and the courage of the men who fly them are both exemplified in the following story of a Beaufort's adventures off Norway, which was broadcast by the sergeant-pilot in command.

THE other day we were ordered to attack a convoy of large enemy ships off the coast of Norway. Three aircraft were to go, led by the squadron commander. Unfortunately, my aircraft was delayed a little in getting off the ground and as such operations are worked to the split second, the other two Beauforts went on ahead. We had about three hundred miles to go before reaching Norway, and before getting there I did everything to catch up with the other two aircraft, but I couldn't though I ran into evidence of their work. There was a big black pall of smoke on the horizon, just where we knew the convoy to be, and I soon saw it to be a large ship on fire and listing over.

I picked another ship of about 7,000 tons, went in and released my torpedo. Then, Charlie, the rear gunner, yelled through the inter-com.: "Look out, skipper—Messerschmitts!" At the same moment I heard the rattle of a German's guns and the pouf of his cannon shell. The Messerschmitt hit us first time, and I saw tracers going past my head, then the gunner yelled again, "Another one coming in, skipper." They hit us again. I heard our guns going all the time. Charlie, very calmly, said: "I think I got him," then a second later: "Here comes another from the beam." There was a terrific explosion at the back, and the rear guns stopped. The observer crawled back, and a few seconds later came to tell me: "Charlie's been hit pretty badly."

All this time I was throwing the aircraft about, but we were then only about 20 feet above the water. All the time the two Messerschmitts were coming in and letting us have everything they'd got from 20 yards. Every time they hit us my Beaufort shuddered, and I had to fight the controls to keep her out of the sea.

BEAUFORT in flight, with its bomb doors open, showing a torpedo ready to be launched against enemy shipping. The Beaufort is used for bombing, torpedo-bombing and reconnaissance. *Photo, Central Press*

Later I found that the rear gunner, who had been unconscious, had come to, and had opened up again. We were certain he got one of the Messerschmitts. He filled its belly with lead at less than 20 yards, and didn't see anything more of the Jerry. Then the rear guns stopped again, and I was chased all over the place. There was some inviting cloud, but I couldn't get the aircraft high enough, we were so badly hit. I thought a thousand times that we must go into the ditch. But I had to laugh when the observer calmly pulled out his watch and announced that the scrap had lasted for nearly twenty minutes.

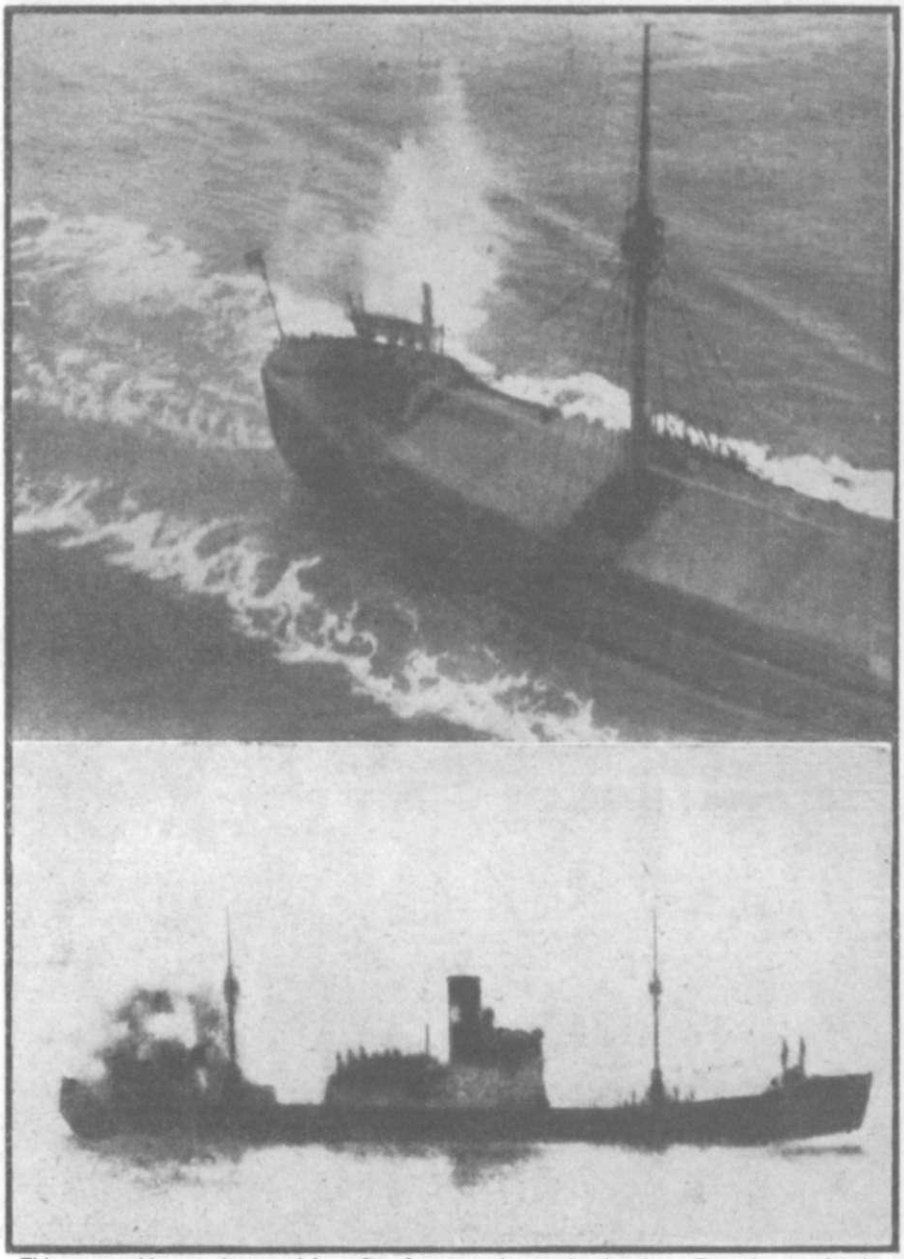
Only Just Above the Sea

Our guns began again, and I thought, "By Jove, those boys are all right." They had dragged themselves up to the guns and were still fighting. Then the one remaining Messerschmitt came round the front of us. He must have thought we were finished, but after one more squirt from our guns he turned away in a hurry, and we didn't see him again.

We had to go home then, and we found that we were heading south instead of west, with about three hundred miles to go in a damaged aircraft. We were just skimming the waves. It was raining hard, blowing a gale, and all the perspex—that's the glass—had been shot away. We were wet and miserable, and there were two men badly hurt. I said, "We'll have to go down in the water," but then we found that the rear gunner and the wireless operator had collapsed and couldn't move.

We were still only just above the sea. So we decided to try to get home, and we took off our Mae Wests to make a bed for Charlie, as he was really hurt. It took three hours before we made a land-fall, and then we were about two hundred miles south of where we should have been. That's how we had been chased.

When I tried to turn the aircraft right, I found that she wouldn't turn, although I managed to coax her to eighty feet. So we turned out to sea again in a wide circle to the left, and lost sight of land. Anyhow, we got home at last. But on getting ready to land I saw the undercarriage swimming about in the breeze. So I just prayed and crash-landed. I was amazed that the Beaufort ever got home after all she'd been through.



This enemy ship was destroyed by a Beaufort torpedo-carrying bomber. Top, the vessel being attacked off the Norwegian coast. The aircraft has just cleared the ship's mast and a bomb has struck the poop. Above, a second later, the bomb has exploded, smoke and flame leaping up by the mainmast. A pilot's story of how his Beaufort attacked an enemy convoy is given above. *Photos, British Official*

We Dived Into Oil to Save Our Ship

How the valuable whale factory ship Svend Foyn—a British vessel manned by Norwegians—was saved after she had been torpedoed in a gale is described here by a young Norwegian who worked amid swirling oil, sea water, and crashing machinery.

OUR ship the Svend Foyn was homeward bound with 20,000 tons of oil in her tanks when we ran into bad weather. Then we were torpedoed. The Svend Foyn opened fire on the U-boat and drove it off, but a hole had been blown in her side and the sea came washing in. In order to trim the ship it became necessary to pump some of the fuel oil from two of the tanks, but the valves lay ten feet below swirling black oil and water.

The captain told me and three other pump men that the only chance of saving the ship was to go down and turn on the valves of the fuel tanks. So we put on diving equipment, and as soon as the sea calmed down a bit, the chief engineer gave the word and we dived down. It was useless to attempt to use an underwater torch—the most powerful torch would not penetrate six inches through the black viscous oil—and everything had to be done by touch. We spent four nightmare days in this way.

Each time I went down I swallowed pints of oil and water. In between dives my feet slipped on the wet, oily deck as the ship lurched this way and that. But I managed to turn the valves.

The second day was, I think, the worst of the four. The weather was certainly no better. Now some of the 60-ton boilers, used for rendering down the blubber, had broken completely loose. I was scared once or twice as they charged about the ship. Then they crashed right past me and floated out to sea. Other steel parts of the ship had also broken adrift in the gale. The deck still tilted at all angles.

By the third day we had lightened the ship a bit, and it was mostly a question of releasing oil. Things still looked so bad that for most of the day the captain had us standing by the lifeboats. On this day the pump-room door was forced open by the heavy seas. One of my mates and I were sent down to close it. We had to fix a stanchion against it. Time and time again we tried, but always, when we had nearly succeeded, the seas burst the door away from our grasp. Then suddenly my mate lost his foothold and vanished. Then the seas washed him towards me, and as he was being whisked by, I managed to grab him.

On the fourth day we finished the job of trimming the ship. The seas moderated a bit, and we came safely into port with the bulk of our valuable cargo intact.—" *Daily Mail* "

Chinese Guerillas Helped Us Escape from Shanghai

From Shanghai, seized by the Japanese in the first days of their Pacific onslaught, several British and Americans escaped with the help of Chinese guerillas. One of the Americans, Francis Lee, told the following story to a " Daily Mail " correspondent.

BRITISH and Americans met behind closed doors all over Shanghai when the Japs took over. On everyone's lips there was only one word—" Escape." But all roads were blocked and many foreigners were arrested while trying to get away.

I did not want to be a prisoner for the rest of the war, so I took a chance, and after several secret rendezvous in parks, alleyways, kitchens, and cafés I contacted a trusted friend. He is a Chinese guerilla commander in Kiangsu province, and he rushed an emissary to guerilla headquarters to see what could be done.

At 2 a.m. on Christmas Day a shivering farmer knocked at the door and whispered, " Sampan waiting in creek two miles from Shanghai. Come tonight." On Christmas night, while most of Shanghai's foreigners were dismally celebrating, I rounded up two friends. We stuffed our pockets with medicines, tooth-paste and soap. Then, feigning to be holiday drunks and smiling and waving to the Jap sentries, we passed the barricades and reached the appointed village.

There, almost in sight of the Japs, boatmen beckoned us to where a sampan, covered with matting, was waiting. We put off down stream at once. The first problem was to pass a strongly garrisoned town. But the boatmen, whistling merrily, briefly replied to the Jap officer's hail, " No passengers."

Eventually we disembarked and reached an abandoned house, from which a Chinese boy burst brandishing a Mauser and shouting, " I am a Chinese soldier." He led us to a barn where the colonel of a guerilla unit, known as the " National Salvation Army," wrote down our destination and then burnt the paper in the candle. He also wrote out a safe conduct pass which his adjutant folded double, indicating that it was a Chinese guerilla dispatch.

It was moonlight, with snow falling intermittently, when we sailed off again into the maze of canals and waterways of Central Kiangsu. Often our boatmen hailed from a distance Japanese soldiers who dared not emerge from their positions at night owing to a complete guerilla control over the countryside.

Penetrating deeper into guerilla regions, we met Major-General Mayungkan, director of political propaganda in Kiangsu. Here I saw peasants undergoing guerilla training. They do not stay long in one place, and their headquarters is constantly being moved to avoid detection. But they are fully supplied with radios and telephones to contact the numerous units, including those operating in Shanghai.

The guerilla commander had the most surprising knowledge of world affairs. He is in constant contact with spies in the Nanking puppet government. He revealed that the Japs have been so harassed by guerillas who blow up the Shanghai - Nanking and Shanghai-Hangchow railways that they lined the tracks with electrically charged wires and employed hounds to smell out the explosives. But guerilla technicians cut the wires and laid false trails for the hounds. The Chinese manage to confine the Jap troops to their few garrisons and retain full control of the countryside.

The commander presented us with loaves, clean underwear captured from Soochow, one of the strongest Jap-garrisoned towns, and sent us to the house of a farmer named Fang, whose wife prepared supper, while her 8-year-old daughter played with the guerillas' Mausers and listened entranced to stories of desperate nocturnal raids.

From here lay the last and most dangerous lap of our escape. Ahead of us was the heavily guarded Sashing-Soochow railway and Hangchow-Nanking highway, both of which we had to cross to reach Free China. Crossing the railway meant taking a sampan past the inspection point under a bridge.

Resourceful guerillas make use of the Nanking puppets, who live in mortal fear of their lives. Thus it was that a high official was made to act as our accomplice. By a trick that I cannot describe, we got through. A few hours later Chinese farmers welcomed us, shouting, " Long live the A B C D front." They asked when America and British planes were going to bomb Japan, and showed us the ruins caused by Jap bombings.

A Toast in Boiling Water

On the shore of Tai Lake we met two British Army officers, Major Sidney Hunt and Captain Raymond Dewar-Durie, and Mr. Watts, a Kailan mining engineer, who had also escaped from Shanghai. With guerilla sailors we crossed the lake in a junk and arrived at 2 a.m. at a secret rendezvous.

In single file the three Britons and we three Americans, guarded by guerillas, marched along a path, and suddenly emerged on a Jap-controlled highway down which we walked for half a mile, listening to the rumble of artillery off to the right, indicating a skirmish which the guerillas had started to distract attention from our escape. Thus we walked the whole night. Dawn found us filing into a ghostly ruined town of Free China, where a few bedraggled survivors of the terrific bombardment exist in poverty-stricken despair.

In a burned teahouse, with a rickety table and broken cups, Britons, American, and Chinese drank a toast in boiling water to the united front. A day later guerillas, proudly shooting off their Mausers, escorted us to the first inhabited town of Free China, where the flag-waving population gave us a community tea-party and anxiously questioned us when the United States and British bombers would begin to arrive.

Similar to those whose activities are described in this page, these Chinese guerillas—farmer-fighters from the southern provinces—are ready to harass the Japanese invaders. *Photo, G.P.U.*

Editor's Postscript

WHILE it can be argued that war brings forth some of the finest qualities in humanity—self-sacrifice, heroism, love of country, comradeship, and so forth—no argument is needed that it more readily brings forth the worst. Lying, deceit, selfishness, inhumanity: all these, and more, flourish abundantly in wartime. And I am inclined to the view that society in the post-war world will go through a period of lowered morals before we get back the old decencies of life. Here, I agree, it can be argued that much of the sanity we all so anxiously wish to recover was lost before the present War broke loose. For the moment, however, I am concerned with only one thing that has deteriorated alarmingly: accepted honesty in social dealings. The alacrity to blame the War for every instance of slackness and lack of the accepted courtesies of civilized life is universal.

MANY of our great public services have carried on, and are carrying on, splendidly despite endless difficulties; especially the railways. On the whole the Post Office has stood up well to the strain, for though we can all give instances of irritating delays we can also give many more examples of efficiency. "Lost in the post" is a favourite excuse; "You didn't get my letter?" a common explanation of someone's neglect. Very few of these complaints are justified. Since September 3, 1939, I have written many, many hundreds of letters and I have no record of a single one of these failing to reach its addressee. But the number of letters that I haven't received because of alleged postal inefficiency is considerable. And I just don't believe they were ever written. It's so easy to shirk an obligation by the simple process of telling a whopper. Having always had about as low an opinion of mankind in this respect as that of the Preacher, I just ignore this now popular excuse and write down those who proffer it as liars—unless good evidence to the contrary is forthcoming. Cadging letters, requests for help, financial or otherwise, never by any chance fail to reach me. Perhaps the writers make the address unusually clear in such cases.

TALKING about lies, we have become so familiar with the apocryphal biographies of film stars, invented by a class apart known as "press agents," that even the least informed reader now accepts them as pleasing fiction. But a good deal of fiction used to be circulated about famous authors before the rise of these mayflies of the film world. I happened to turn to the late Lord Birkenhead's "Last Essays" tonight to read again his brilliant and outspoken "Reflections in a Library." My eye fell on this: "It is claimed for Balzac that he could write a novel almost at a sitting, sustained by draughts of black coffee." Whoever was the first to claim this for Balzac was certainly no true man, as it is notorious that Balzac was a most painstaking author. Turning to Mary F. Sandars's life of him I read: "writing did not at any time come easily to him, and 'Stella' and 'Coqsigrue,' his first novels, were never finished; while a comedy, 'Les Deux Philosophes,' was also abandoned in despair."

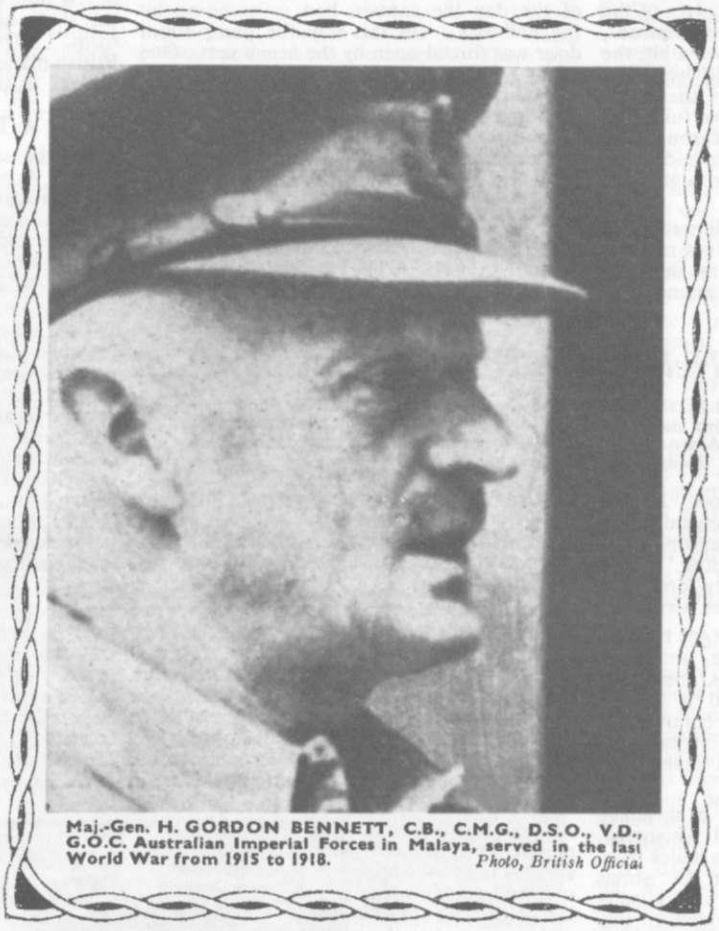
I WISH that Lord Birkenhead had applied to the statement he quoted that searching scrutiny for which he was famous as a lawyer, for if he had taken the pains to look over half-a-dozen volumes of Balzac (which I have just done) he would have found that the shortest of them, "The Quest of the Absolute," runs to ninety thousand words, while "The Chouans," in common with most of his full-length novels, contains about 150,000 words. Written "almost at a sitting"! Anything from three to six months would have been a fair estimate of the time required by a fairly fast practitioner in creative composition—apart from the desideratum of genius. Had the matter in hand raised a legal question, Birkenhead would assuredly have considered the possibility of any human being writing at the express speed of a thousand words an hour (even full of black coffee) getting away with a novel of only ninety thousand words "almost at a sitting." Edgar Wallace might have spun one of his yarns at two thousand words an hour, for he used to dictate at top speed to a shorthand writer while walking about his study, and, even so, his average time for one of his novels would have been about fifty hours. In this way Edgar could certainly turn out a good readable yarn inside a week—but Balzac was no Wallace, or rather, the other way round!

IN glancing through "The Chouans" (which is concerned with the guerilla royalists of the French Revolution) the following passage seems to me worth quoting for its application to the present distressful times in which the French are living once again:

"'Do you notice, mademoiselle,' he said, 'how little our feelings flow in their accustomed channels in these times of terror in which we live? Is there not a striking and unexplainable spontaneity about everything that takes place around us? We love nowadays, or we hate, on the strength of a single glance. We are bound together for life, or we are severed with the same speed that brings us to the scaffold. We do everything in haste, like the nation in its ferment. We cling to each other more closely amid these perils than in the common course of life. Lately in Paris we have come to know, as men learn on the battlefield, all that is meant by the grasp of a hand.'

"'The thirst for a full life in a little space,' she said, 'was felt then because men had so short a time to live.'"

Today in Paris that thirst for a full life can only be allayed by the reflection that it will be unattainable until the Nazi has been compelled to evacuate the once proud *ville lumière* where his polluting presence has only temporarily put out the light. Parisians must just go on thirsting and hoping that the short time to live may prove long enough to carry them through to the day when a draught of full life may again be theirs.



Maj.-Gen. H. GORDON BENNETT, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., G.O.C. Australian Imperial Forces in Malaya, served in the last World War from 1915 to 1918. *Photo, British Official*

A Word to our Readers who have not preserved their Serial Numbers for Binding

The heightened interest of the War has coincided with the severest stage of the paper famine. When we ought to have been increasing the size of each number, printing more and more copies, we have had drastically to reduce both size and circulation. This has led to some unavoidable disappointment. Those who had not begun two years ago getting their numbers bound up now find it difficult to complete the four volumes now completed. Arrangements latterly made for the convenience of those who have regularly bound their volumes, however, are working as satisfactorily as prevailing restrictions will allow.

But among my very large circle of readers there are many thousands who must feel the need to possess an adequate permanent history of the War, and the opportunity to secure the best available is now open to them. The first three volumes of my other highly successful publication, written as a continuous narrative of events and superbly illustrated, "The Second Great War: A Standard History," are now obtainable in the splendid edition expressly printed for the Waverley Book Co., who offer the work on easy instalment terms.

It is naturally a more costly production than "The War Illustrated," but the subscription terms bring it well within the means of a large body of my readers, and as nothing comparable with "The Second Great War," in regard to literary contents and documentation, and particularly illustration, is ever likely to be produced, I would advise those readers who may be interested to send a postcard at once to THE WAVERLEY BOOK CO., 96, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4, asking for full particulars of their present exceptional offer which enables you to examine the volumes now ready in your own home free of all charge or obligation.

Here again delay in writing might lead to disappointment, for the edition now available cannot be indefinitely extended owing to the limitation of stocks, and the fourth volume will soon be on sale. In "The Second Great War," I may add, I have had the expert cooperation of Sir Charles Gwynn, K.C.B., D.S.O. as Military Editor, whose name and experience give the work a cachet of authority.

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